

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 **Claim 1** (previously presented): An electromechanical switch
2 incorporating in its switch housing at least one electrically
3 conductive switching element (1) with associated electrically
4 conductive contact surfaces (2), wherein an area of the
5 switching element (1) that faces away from the contact
6 surfaces is at least partly enclosed by an elastic diaphragm
7 (5) which also encloses at least a region containing the
8 contact surfaces (2) associated with the switching element (1)
9 and tightly butts against the switch housing (4; 6) wherein
10 said diaphragm (5) is prestressed in a transition area between
11 the switching element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus
12 resiliently pressing the switching element (1) against the
13 contact surfaces (2).

1 **Claim 2** (previously presented): The switch according to claim
2 1, wherein the elastic diaphragm (5) comprises a
3 thermoplastic.

1 **Claim 3** (canceled)

1 **Claim 4** (currently amended): The switch according to claim 1,
2 wherein the switch housing (4; 6) consists of two sections,
3 with a base plate (4) containing the contact surfaces (2) and
4 a cover (6) with an opening (6') through which protrudes a
5 part of the switching element (1) with a diaphragm (5),
6 wherein said two housing sections (4; 6) are ~~preferably~~
7 connected in self-locking fashion by clamping or welding.

1 **Claim 5** (currently amended): The switch according to claim 1,
2 wherein the switching element (1) is pin-shaped and has a
3 round or oval cross section while its end (1'), which makes
4 contact with the contact surfaces (2) is ~~preferably~~ rounded
5 into a convex tip.

1 **Claim 6** (currently amended): The switch according to claim 1,
2 wherein, in the area where it rests against the switching
3 element (1) and/or in the ~~transitional~~ transition area between
4 the switching element (1) and its connection to the switch
5 housing (4; 6), the diaphragm (5) is provided on its inside
6 and/or outside with one or several notches (7).

1 **Claim 7** (previously presented): The switch according to claim
2 1, wherein the switching element (1) comprises a metal.

1 **Claim 8** (previously presented): The switch according to claim
2 1, wherein three or four contact surfaces (2) are associated
3 with one switching element (1).

1 **Claim 9** (previously presented): The switch according to claim
2 1, wherein the contact surfaces (2) comprise contact pins (3)
3 whose ends (2) facing the switching element (1) are
4 hemispherical or mushroom-shaped.

1 **Claim 10** (currently amended): The switch according to claim 1,
2 wherein the switch housing ~~or the switch housing sections~~ (4;
3 6) ~~comprise~~ comprises a 2-component injection-molded plastic
4 material.

1 **Claim 11** (currently amended): Use of a switch per one of the
2 claims ~~1 to 10~~ 1, 2 and 4-10 in miniaturized devices ~~and~~
3 ~~especially in hearing aids.~~

1 **Claim 12** (previously presented): The switch according to claim
2 1, wherein the elastic diaphragm (5) comprises an elastomeric
3 material.

1 **Claim 13** (new): An electromechanical switch incorporating in
2 its switch housing at least one electrically conductive
3 switching element (1) with associated electrically conductive
4 contact surfaces (2), wherein an area of the switching element
5 (1) that faces away from the contact surfaces is at least
6 partly enclosed by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also
7 encloses at least a region containing the contact surfaces (2)
8 associated with the switching element (1) and tightly butts
9 against the switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5)
10 is prestressed in a transition area between the switching
11 element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently pressing
12 the switching element (1) against the contact surfaces (2) to
13 establish an electrically conductive connection between the
14 contact surfaces.

1 **Claim 14** (new): The use of the switch according to claim 11,
2 wherein the miniaturized devices are hearing aids.